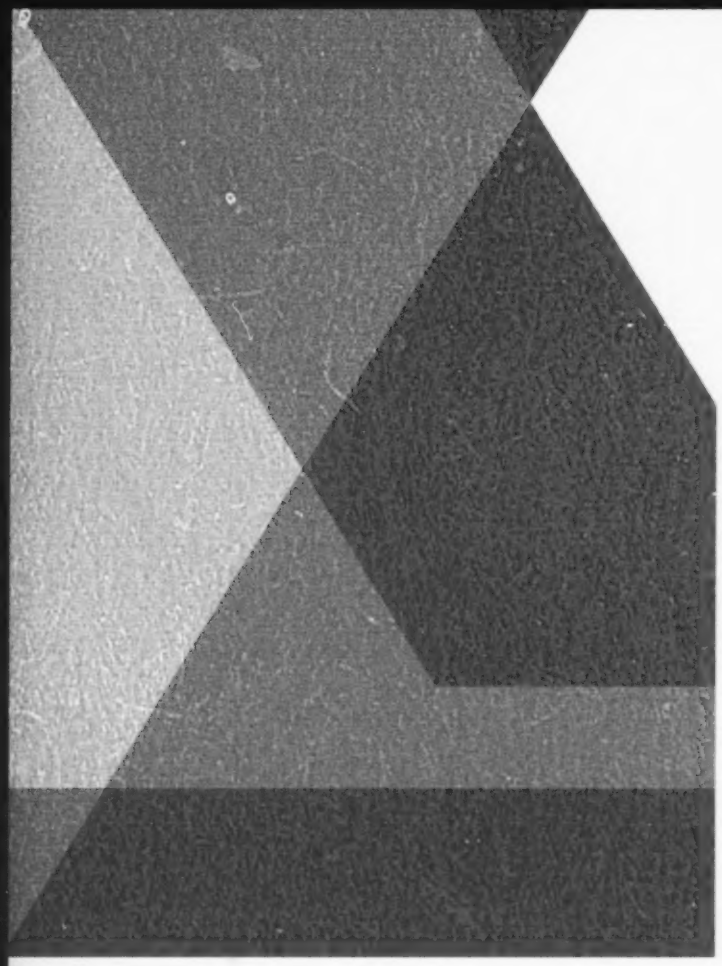

Business Plan

2018–19

Department of Business

NOVA SCOTIA

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Budget 2018–19: Business Plan
March 2018

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Message from the Minister

As the Department of Business enters the 2018-2019 fiscal year, we remain committed to our goal of inclusive economic growth and our vision of making Nova Scotia the most business-friendly jurisdiction in Canada.

Over the past year we made great strides in our work to foster and enhance innovation and the development of an innovation ecosystem for Nova Scotia. We advanced the role of social enterprise in our economy. We increased export and capital growth opportunities for business. And we are poised to realize the potential of our investments in the Centre for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship (COVE) and the rural high-speed internet strategy.

But there is more to do. Looking ahead, we will continue to work across Government and through our five Crown entities to further embrace innovation, accelerate entrepreneurship and exports, and enable the strategic economic infrastructure that supports private sector growth.

The Department of Business will continue to be a champion, a facilitator, and a coordinator for the Government's economic agenda. We look forward to working with our partners in other levels of Government, the private and social enterprise sectors, universities and colleges, and more as we all move towards building a thriving economic future for our Province.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Geoff MacLellan
Minister of Business

Departmental Mandate

As Government's central lead on economic development policy, the Department of Business directs and aligns all Government efforts behind an inclusive economic development agenda focused on enabling private sector growth in Nova Scotia. The Department focuses on strategic priorities and opportunities that enhance Nova Scotia's innovation, competitiveness, entrepreneurship, and export orientation. The Department also supports the Minister of Business in overseeing agencies for which the Minister is assigned responsibility, which currently include:

- Halifax Convention Centre Corporation (Events East Group)
- Innovacorp
- Invest Nova Scotia
- Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI)
- Tourism Nova Scotia (TNS)
- Trade Centre Limited (TCL)
- Waterfront Development Corporation Limited (WDCL)

To achieve Government's mandate, the Department works collaboratively with key partners to create a dynamic environment for businesses to succeed.

Innovation is critical to the growth of the Nova Scotia economy. Government has a supportive role to play in growing this innovation ecosystem through policies, programs and investments. The Department of Business, as the champion for Government's innovation initiatives related to economic growth, will continue to work closely with various partners to support and foster the innovation ecosystem. Coordinating Government's innovation initiatives and promoting alignment amongst relevant Departments and Crowns Corporations are key priorities of the Department in 2018-2019, as well as providing leadership in the following areas:

- Government's inclusive economic growth agenda;
- Government's innovation and entrepreneurship acceleration programs;
- Implementation of Government's rural internet strategy

Government Commitments

The role of the Department is to ensure Government's efforts to advance its inclusive economic agenda are both focused and coordinated, which includes working closely with the Crown agencies for which it is responsible and the Departments that deliver economic programs and services. In 2018-2019, the Department will deliver some Government commitments directly, while working with its Crown agencies to support the successful implementation of several initiatives, including:

- Making more venture capital available to technology companies at various stages of development;

- Establish an Innovation Rebate Program;
- Establish an Export Accelerator Program;
- Double the Export Growth Program;
- Remain committed to partnering with our creative industries;
- Expand key tourism sites in Nova Scotia.

Government commitments assigned to the Department's agencies are described in more detail in their business plans. The Department will continue to ensure the activities of its Crown Corporations are focused and aligned with Government priorities through outcome agreements.

The Department continues to support the Invest Nova Scotia Board to assess innovative and collaborative economic development projects that support a sector or region to improve Nova Scotia's competitiveness in the global economy.

In delivering Government commitments directly, the Department will collaborate with partners and stakeholders in varying capacities to identify opportunities to grow key sectors. The Department will lead some commitments, act as a catalyst for others, and manage some in their entirety.

In addition to the roles identified, Business also provides strategic and project-based leadership. Examples include:

- Working with Municipalities, Community, and the Federal Government to advance high-speed internet in our Province;
- Continuing to drive growth in the oceans sector;
- Planning Government's approach to strategic economic infrastructure;
- Piloting an International Air Route Development Program to create more direct flight opportunities;
- Continuing to work with Provincial and Federal partners on a number of key initiatives, including clean growth and the Atlantic Growth Strategy;
- Updating an innovative model developed within the Department which provides insights into Nova Scotia's trade sectors that are useful for policy development; and
- Conducting research and analysis to support decision making across Government.

Financial Summary

Departmental Expenses Summary
($ thousands)

Programs and Services	2017-2018 Estimate	2017-2018 Forecast	2018-2019 Estimate
Senior Management	999	876	992
Halifax Convention Centre Amortization	5,066	642 (1)	7,718 (2)
Department & Crown Relations	10,068	16,228 (3)	3,898 (4)
Strategy, Policy & Corporate Services	2,215	1,888	1,984
Nova Scotia Jobs Fund	36,090	36,090	35,959
Business Relations & Innovation	27,031	135,129 (5)	8,212 (6)
Crown Corporations and Partnerships	114,668	114,074	97,348 (7)
Total - Departmental Expenses	**196,137**	**304,927**	**156,111**
Ordinary Recoveries	4,624	3,767	2,475
Funded Staff (# of FTEs)			
Department Funded Staff	28.0	20.8	28.0

(1) Halifax Convention Centre Substantial completion effective February 28, 2018 - amortization for 2017-18 reflects 1 month

(2) Halifax Convention Centre Substantial completion effective February 28, 2018 - amortization for 2018-19 reflects 12 months

(3) HIAA funding increase offset by unspent Tourism Site Development funding and revised cash flow for Capital Investment Incentive

(4) Capital Investment Incentive revised cash flows; Tourism site development

(5) Rural Highspeed Internet funding to Trust; IORE Deep Sense and Halifax Partnership contributions offset by revised cash flow for Invest Nova Scotia and Innovation Rebate Program

(6) Reductions for Rural Highspeed Internet, Invest Nova Scotia and Innovation Strategy; transfer Innovation Rebate Program to Nova Scotia Business Inc.

(7) Capital project completions for COVE, Queen's Marque; revised cash flows for Cunard public space development; reduction to Halifax Convention Centre due to substantial completion and event operations commencing